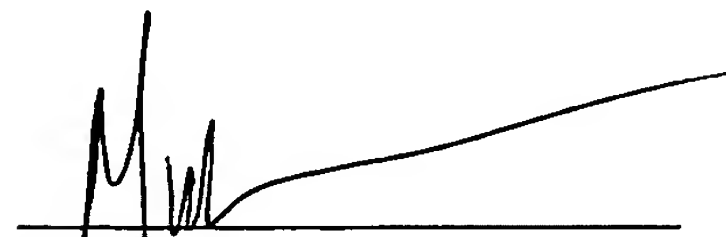


REMARKS

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned representative in the telephonic interviews which took place on January 31, 2007. In response to the Interviews, Applicant respectfully submits this Supplemental Response. Claims 45, 47-54, 56-59, 68, 69, 76-86, 88 and 92-101 were last presented in this application upon entry of Applicant's Response filed January 10, 2007. In the Interview, the Examiner indicated that the January 10, 2007 Response placed all claims other than claim 99 in condition for allowance.
2. In the Interviews, the Examiner acknowledged that claim 99 was previously allowed, and that such allowance was withdrawn. Without addressing the propriety of the rejection, the Examiner and undersigned agreed that the foregoing amendments will place claim 99 in condition for allowance. The Examiner confirmed that his supervisors agreed that the foregoing amendments will be sufficient to place this application in condition for allowance. Based on the Examiner's confirmation, claim 99 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 100, and claim 100 has been cancelled. As the undersigned noted in the Interviews, the foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission that pending claim 99 is not allowable over the art of record.
3. Thus, by the foregoing Amendments, claims 45, 77, 86 and 99 have been amended, claim 100 has been cancelled, and no claims have been added. As such, upon entry of this paper, claims 45, 47-54, 56-59, 68, 69, 76-86, 88 and 92-99 and 101 will be pending in this application. Of these thirty-six (36) claims, five (5) claims (claim 45, 76, 86, 95 and 99) are independent.
4. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

5. In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael G. Verga', is written over a horizontal line.

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February 2, 2007